"TOOTH AND NAILS" 08/03/00 3:34 PM

"WHY LIE? I NEED A BEER."

TEASER

FADE IN:

EXT. FREEWAY - OFF-RAMP - DAY

UNDER A SCRAWNY PALM TREE, **MICKEY THE BUM** LOUNGES, SNORING LIKE A MACHINE GUN. A SIMPLE, LOVABLE CHAP WITH A WONDERFUL CHARACTER FACE AND A TOOTHLESS GRIN, MICKEY HARBORS NO RESENTMENT, DESPITE HIS HARD TIMES. IN FACT, HE SEEMS QUITE CONTENT WITH LIFE ON THE STREETS, JUST SO LONG AS HE GETS PLENTY OF NAP-TIME. MICKEY LOVES TO SLEEP.

THE GROUND TREMORS SLIGHTLY... FROM ONE OF THE MANY AFTERSHOCKS THAT FREQUENT THIS SUBURBAN PALMDALE AREA AND MICKEY AWAKENS. HE STRETCHES, YAWNS, AND GETS TO WORK; PRESENTING HIS SIGN TO THE CARS. IT READS, ***"WILL WORK FOR FOOD".***

A VAN FULL OF TEENAGERS PULL OFF THE FREEWAY. THEY SHOUT, *"GET A REAL JOB!",* HURL A WATER BALLOON AT MICKEY, AND SPEED OFF.

MICKEY DOESN'T FLINCH. HE STANDS THERE, DRENCHED. LICKS THE WATER FROM HIS LIPS. GETS AN IDEA. SMILES.

HE FLIPS THE SIGN OVER, SCRAWLS SOMETHING ON THE BACK, AND TRIES AGAIN. IT NOW READS*;* ***"WHY LIE? I NEED A BEER."***

ACT I

EXT. TOOTH CONSTRUCTION - ESTABLISHING - DAY

A SMALL BUILDING WITH AN UPSTAIRS APARTMENT AND A SIGN THAT READS: ***"TOOTH CONSTRUCTION"***

INT. TOOTH CONSTRUCTION OFFICE - DAY

THIS IS A GENERAL CONTRACTOR'S OFFICE THAT SUPERVISES CONSTRUCTION WORK IN THE AREA. THE WORKING SPACE IS ADJOINED WITH THE EMPLOYEE LOUNGE/KITCHEN AREA FOR THE VARIOUS PLUMBERS, PAINTERS AND ELECTRICIANS THAT ARE HIRED OUT BY THE COMPANY.

A BACK DOOR LEADS TO THE GARAGE AND PARKING LOT. THE FRONT DOOR OPENS INTO A RECEPTION AREA WHERE THE RESTROOMS ARE.

PAPER WORK HAS GOTTEN THE BETTER OF "TOOTH CONSTRUCTION". STACKS OF BILLS, RECEIPTS AND INVOICES SIT ON THE DESKS, ON THE CHAIRS AND ARE EVEN PILED HIGH ON THE FLOOR.

AT ONE OF THE DESKS, **CLEMMY "THE ROCK" SCHWABS** IS DOING A COMPUTER ESTIMATE. THEY CALL HER "THE ROCK" BECAUSE SHE IS. SHE HAS A DEEP RESONANT VOICE AND A MIDWESTERN DRAWL, THAT COMMANDS RESPECT AND EVEN FEAR FROM WEAKER INDIVIDUALS. HER HAIR IS SHOVED UNDER A BASEBALL CAP AND YOU CAN TELL FROM HER BAGGY JEANS AND FLANNEL SHIRT THAT SHE IS A NO FRILLS KIND OF PERSON.
ON THE SOFA, AMIDST THE EMPTY BURGER BAGS, PIZZA BOXES AND TAKE-OUT CARTONS WHICH TRAIL FROM THE GARBAGE CAN TO THE SINK, LAYS **BUZZ JENSON, SUPER CARPENTER**, WATCHING THE HORSE RACES ON T.V. IF YOU CAN LOOK BEYOND HIS LAZY, SLOPPY, COCKY DEMEANOR, HE IS HANDSOME IN A BLUE COLLAR SORT OF WAY. THE KIND OF GUY THAT RELIES ON HIS QUICK SMILE AND “SINCERELY DELIVERED B.S.STORIES” TO HELP STEER HIM THROUGH LIFE’S SHORTCUTS. THE PHONE RINGS. SCHWABS ANSWERS IT.

SCHWABS

(INTO PHONE)

Tooth Construction. No we're

not a dentist office. We're

general contractors. We build homes

(BEAT)

Which part of "we build homes"

don't you understand?

(SHE HANGS UP)

That's the third one today.

Dentist office!

JENSON

(WATCHING HORSE RACES ON T.V.)

Oh, yes! At last, my "Little Itty Bitty" is coming up, again!

SCHWABS

Was it the Viagra?

JENSON

No joke, Clemmy! The odds are ten to one!

SCHWABS

That’s what the box says.

JENSON

I’m talking about my favorite stallion! My four legged animal! My come-from-behind, long shot!

SCHWABS

I don’t care what you call it, just please, keep it to yourself.

FROM THE OVERHEAD BALCONY, WE SEE **BEN TOOTH**, A SLIGHTLY BALDING MAN IN HIS FIFTIES, RUSH OUT FROM HIS UPSTAIRS, LIVE-IN APARTMENT, SCURRY DOWN THE SPIRAL STAIRCASE, AND INTO THE OFFICE. EVEN WHEN BEN IS IRRITABLE, LIKE TODAY, NO ONE TAKES HIM TOO SERIOUSLY, (DESPITE THE FACT HE'S THE BOSS.) BEN IS A GULLIBLE, LOVABLE, NICE GUY, THAT IS EASY TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF. EASY, THAT IS, UNLESS SCHWABS IS AROUND. SHE LOVES BEN DEARLY, AND WOULD KILL FOR HIM.

BEN IS EXASPERATED TO FIND **A STRAY CAT SLEEPING ON TOP OF HIS DESK.**

BEN

What's this *stray cat*

doing in the office?!

SCHWABS

Look's like he's working just

as hard as Jenson.

BEN

But he's shedding hair and ticks

all over my furniture!

SCHWABS

So is the cat but at least he's

not on the clock.

BEN

(TO THE CAT)

Shoo! Go on! Excavate!

(TO SCHWABS)

He's not minding me!

SCHWABS COMES TO THE RESCUE. SHE TURNS AND GLARES AT THE CAT. IMMEDIATELY, IT RUNS OUT OF THE ROOM.

BEN STARTS TO RUMMAGE THROUGH STACKS OF PAPER.

BEN

Darn it, Schwabs! Help me find Sheila's

phone number. I can't remember what

time she's coming by.

JENSON

Whose Sheila? Another blind date?

BEN

I'll have you know Jenson, not all my dates are set up. Sometimes I just happen to meet nice girls that are automatically attracted to me.

SCHWABS

Where'd you write her number?

BEN

It's circled in red in the personnel’s.

SCHWABS LOOKS AT THE PAGES OF TORN OUT, PERSONAL ADS WITH RED CIRCLES ON THEM, TACKED UP ALL OVER THE OFFICE.

SCHWABS

Oh. Well, that narrows it down.

JENSON

Maybe you should get "The Rock" over there to clean up this place.

SCHWABS GLARES AT HIM.

BEN

Not necessary. My brother's kid just hauled into town and is going to be our new office manager. Hopefully, Dani can organize this.

SCHWABS

Jimmy Hoffa couldn't organize this.

JENSON

I don't know if organization is a strong trait in the Tooth family tree.

BEN

Ah, lay off. I'm not that bad. It's just that you guys keep moving my piles. If you'd just leave my piles alone...

SCHWABS

Uh, Ben? Come here.

(HE DOES).

Turn around.

SHE PEELS A NEWSPAPER AD OFF THE BACK OF HIS SHIRT.

SCHWABS(CONT'D)

(READING)

"Sensitive, body conscious, and likes to travel..?"

BEN

Sheila! Thanks, Schwabs.

CUT TO:

EXT.FREEWAY - OFF RAMP -DAY

MICKEY THE BUM, IS STILL HAPPILY AT WORK. **DANI TOOTH BENTLY**,(LATE 20'S-EARLY 30'S)A DISHEVELED YET EYE CATCHING BLONDE IN A V.W. BUG,PULLS UP TO HIM,AND STOPS. HER CAR IS CRAM-PACKED WITH SUITCASES. DANI IS A FREE SPIRIT WITH A NATURAL SEX-APPEAL, AND A CHILD-LIKE EXUBERANCE FOR LIFE. THE TYPE OF GAL WHO BEFRIENDS EVERYONE SHE MEETS. THESE QUALITIES, THOUGH ENGAGING, OFTEN GET HER INTO TROUBLE.

DANI

Do you know where Peach street is?

MICKEY

(POINTING TO LEFT)

Uh, sure. Go down there and hang your first right, or is it left? Wait a minute. I think maybe it's down that way.

(POINTS TO THE RIGHT.)

Did you say Orange street, or Apple?

DANI

Listen, that's okay. I'm just trying to find the Peach Street Hotel. Believe it or not, it’s the only vacancy in town.

MICKEY

Well, if ya get into trouble, you're always welcome to stay at my place.

HE REFERS TO HIS MEAGER CARDBOARD BOX.

DANI

(POLITELY)

I'll keep that in mind.

MICKEY

So, what brings you to Palmdale, earth-quake capital of the world?

DANI

It’s a long story.

MICKEY

I got plenty of time. Cup of jo?

HE HOLDS UP HIS OLD THERMOS.

DANI

Actually ... I'd love one!

SHE CLIMBS OUT AND THEY SIT ON THE HOOD OF HER CAR. AS DANI CHATTERS AWAY, MICKEY POURS COFFEE IN THE CUP-TOP FOR DANI, WHILE HE DRINKS STRAIGHT OUT OF THE THERMOS.

DANI(CONT'D)

See, I just got a job working here, for my uncle Ben, who I haven't seen since I was six, and I don't really know him, but I'm going to be his new office manager.

MICKEY

Good for you. What line of business is he in?

DANI

He's been out of town so we haven't actually spoken person to person, but his answer machine said "Tooth Construction."

MICKEY

I hate dentists.

HE SMILES HIS TOOTHLESS GRIN.

CUT TO:

<u>INT. TOOTH & NAILS OFFICE - DAY</u>

SCHWABS SPEAKS ON HER PHONE.

SCHWABS

(INTO PHONE)

No lady, we don't do molars.

SCHWABS(CONT'D)

We do moulding. You know,

"construction stuff".

SHE SLAMS DOWN THE PHONE, AND HEADS OUT.

SCHWABS

(UNDER HER BREATH)

Morons.

BEN

Where are you going?

SCHWABS

Nature's calling, and she's not happy with the burrito I had for lunch.

JENSON

That's what I like about you, Schwabs. You just say what's on your mind.

SCHWABS

At least I'm not sitting on my mind.

SHE DISAPPEARS INTO THE BATHROOM. JENSON JUMPS UP.

JENSON

(QUICKLY)

Ben, help me out. I need a hundred dollars.

BEN

I'm not giving you cash so you can bet on the horses.

JENSON

Horses? Who said anything about horses? I need to, uh ... get my drill out of "hock" so I can finish the bridge out at the Finkelmyer’s.

BEN

Good. We gotta get those supports secured before it rains. Anytime clients can afford a man-made stream with a bridge we're talking repeat business.

(HANDING JENSON A 100 DOLLAR BILL)

Here, ya go.

JENSON

Thanks. I'm gonna get this job done right away, man. First thing on my list.

(BEAT)

Could you pass me the racing section?

BEN HANDS HIM THE PAPER.

BEN

Hey, wait a minute, Buzz. Why do you need the racing section if you're going to the Finkelmyer’s?

JENSON

Uh... I need something to lay the oily tools on. Don't want to soil the carpet.

BEN

Oh.

(BEAT)

Carpet? In the back yard?!

JENSON

(CHANGING THE SUBJECT)

Hey, and good luck with Sheila.

HE WINKS AT BEN, WHO AT THE MENTION OF SHEILA'S NAME, FORGETS EVERYTHING ELSE.

BEN

(SIGHS, SMILING)

Sheila. Listen to what she says.

HE PICKS UP THE PERSONAL AD.

BEN

(READING)

I am looking for a man to marry that is loyal and kind. It doesn’t matter if he’s handsome or if he has a few flaws.

JENSON

Sounds like you're just her type.

JENSON GOES.

BEN

Thanks. (IT HITS HIM) Hey!

SCHWABS COMES BACK IN.

SCHWABS

Where's Jenson?

BEN

He went to finish the Finkelmyer's job.

SCHWABS

Good. Just so long as you didn't give him any money.

THUNDER BOOMS OUTSIDE AS IT BEGINS TO RAIN AND BOB'S SMILE FADES.

THE FRONT BUZZER RINGS AND SCHWABS CROSSES TO THE RECEPTION AREA.

INT. RECEPTION AREA

MR. SMITH, A DEBONAIR FELLOW ENTERS.

SMITH

Hello. Do you do earthquake damage?

SCHWABS

Sure do. Earthquake damage is our specialty.

SMITH

I’d like to find out how much it would cost to do minor repairs out at my home.

BEN STEPS OUT, STIRRING A BOWL FULL OF SALMON SALAD.

BEN

Excuse me, (TO SCHWABS) I'll be right back.

BEN(CONT’D)

If Sheila or Dani shows up, nail 'em down and hang 'em tight.

SCHWABS

Who are Sheila and Danny?

BEN

Dani, our new office manager. *Sheila*, my hopefully gorgeous lunch date.

HE TASTES HIS CONCOCTION.

BEN(CONT'D)

I've assembled my secret salmon soufflé for Sheila.

SCHWABS

How thrilling.

HE DUCKS BACK OUT.

SCHWABS(CONT'D)

(BACK TO SMITH)

Your address please?

SMITH

What for?

SCHWABS

So we can inspect your house and estimate the damage. Unless you'd rather call the psychic hot line and give them a shot at it.

SMITH

I understand, but I don't tend to give my address out to just anybody.

SCHWABS

Listen, Mister. We've been in business ten years and we're fully bonded. But if you can't trust us, we can't help you.

SHE STARTS TO WALK AWAY, COUNTING UNDER HER BREATH...

SCHWABS(CONT'D)

Three, two, one...

SMITH

Three, sixteen, Country Club drive.

SCHWABS

Now wasn't that easy, Mr. Smith?

SMITH LEAVES ALMOST BUMPING INTO...

DANI AS SHE ENTERS THE RECEPTION AREA. SHE WEARS A FRILLY DRESS AND TOTES A MATCHING UMBRELLA.

DANI

Hi. I’m looking for...Schwabs?

SCHWABS

I’m Schwabs. Clementine. I grew up Clemmy. Don’t ask.

DANI

Okay. I guess you know why I'm here.

SCHWABS

(EYEING HER FRILLY DRESS)

You've lost your sheep? I dunno why?

DANI

I'm here to meet with Ben.

SCHWABS ASSUMES THAT SHE'S BEN'S DATE.

SCHWABS

Oh. Yes. I just peeled your assets off of his back. Sit down. He'll be right back.

DANI SITS. ALL OF A SUDDEN SHE BURSTS INTO A HEARTY LAUGH.

SCHWABS

What so funny?

DANI

Lost my sheep. The dress, right? I guess it is a little... frilly. I'm a "mood" dresser, one week it's lace, the next week it's leather, do you know what I mean?

SCHWABS

No.

DANI

(LAUGHS)

I can see why Ben would like you. He always needed someone around to keep him in line.

SCHWABS

I didn't realize you two had met before.

DANI

(SINCERE)

Oh, sure. I used to straddle his leg and we'd play horsy together, and one time when I was really bad... he threw me over his knee and spanked me.

SCHWABS

I don't want to know.

(TAKES OUT CIGARETTES)

Pardon me.

DANI FOLLOWS HER INTO THE MAIN OFFICE.

DANI

Is it all right if I make myself at home?

SCHWABS

Sure. The kitchen's in there through the office. Just don't touch any piles. Ben hates for anyone to touch his stuff.

DANI

Oh, but that's why I'm here. To "touch Ben's stuff." In exchange for the "big bucks," of course.

DANI WINKS AT SCHWABS.

SCHWABS

Like I said, I don't want to know.

SCHWABS LEAVES OUT ONE OF THE BACK DOORS.

DANI HEADS INTO THE KITCHEN.
SHE POURS SOME COFFEE. HEARS A MEOW.
OPENS A WINDOW.

DANI

Oh, hi there, kitty. Are you hungry?

SHE OPENS THE FRIDGE AND TAKES OUT THE
SALMON SOUFFLÉ'

DANI(CONT'D)

Mmmm. Smells like salmon today.

SHE FEEDS THE STRAY CAT ONE SCOOP OF SALMON.
TWO MORE CATS COME THROUGH THE WINDOW.

DANI(CONT'D)

Oh, and who are your little friends?

SHE MEOWS TO THEM. THEY ALL MEOW BACK.

DANI(CONT'D)

Come on in. There's plenty for

everybody.

DANI SIZES UP HER WORK. TOOLS ARE
HAPHAZARDLY WEDGED BETWEEN RESEARCH BOOKS
AND CRAMMED INTO DRAWERS. THE GIANT SCHEDULE
BOARD IS IMPOSSIBLE TO READ. AND OF COURSE
THERE'S THE NEVER-ENDING PILES OF PAPERWORK.

DANI(CONT'D)

Look at this place. This is the

messiest Dentist Office I've ever

seen. Well, no time like the present.

(READING FROM A POST-IT)

Joe Greenfield. Friday. Root removal.

Ouch. That is gonna hurt.

SHE ERASES EVERYTHING ELSE OFF OF THE SCHEDULE BOARD
AND WRITES "SURGERY" UNDER "FRIDAY".

INT. RECEPTION AREA

THE BUZZER RINGS. **MRS. FINKELMYER**, A SPOILED, RICH WOMAN ENTERS THE RECEPTION AREA. DANI GREETS HER.

DANI

May I help you?

MRS. FINKELMYER

I hope so. I was supposed to have my bridge work completed to day, and now my foundation is completely caving in!

DANI

(GASPS)

Why don't you sit down.

Are you in a lot of pain?

MRS. FINKELMYER

Are you kidding? I'm dying here.

MRS. FINKELMYER IS ENJOYING ALL THE ATTENTION SHE IS GETTING. DANI PUTS HER FEET UP ON THE COUCH AND GETS HER A PILLOW.

DANI

Here, put your head back on this pillow. Can I get you an aspirin?

MRS. FINKELMYER

Make it two.

DANI

Here you go.

GROG, A HUGE, NEANDERTHAL SUBCONTRACTOR COMES IN.

GROG

I'm Grog. I got a call from Buzz Jenson, about doing some drilling for him.

DANI

Oh, um ... right. I'll go find Clemmy.

DANI STARTS TO GO.

GROG

He said it was regarding a Mrs. Finklemyer's bridge supports?

MRS. FINKELMYER

I'm Mrs. Finklemyer. I'm the one that needs the drilling.

DANI

(COMING BACK IN)

Oh. Thank goodness. Wonderful.

MRS. FINKELMYER

(TO GROG)

I'm desperate. Is their anyway you can start immediately?

GROG

In the rain?

DANI

Excuse us a minute.

(ASIDE TO GROG)

Doctor, I don't think the weather should be an issue. This is an emergency.

GROG

If you say so. Let me get my drill.

HE EXITS. **THREE MORE CATS COME IN.**

DANI

Oh, more kitties. Come on in.

(TO FINKELMYER)

So, Mrs. Finkelmyer when did you first start having problems with your bridge?

MRS. FINKELMYER

After the earthquake.

DANI

Oh, so it could be *stress* related.

MRS. FINKELMYER

I would say *definitely.*

GROG COMES IN WITH A LARGE DRILL. DANI GASPS.

DANI

Would you prefer to be awake or asleep for this?

MRS. FINKELMYER

I don't see how I'm going to be able to sleep with all the drilling.

DANI

(HOLDS HER HAND)

You're very brave.

MRS. FINKELMYER

I know, dear.

GROG

So, let's get it over with.

(DANI PULLS GROG ASIDE)

DANI

I know I'm new at this, Doctor,
but can I ask you a question?

GROG

Anything.

DANI

I’m just curious about your “tool.”
Isn’t it a bit on the large side?

GROG

That's a very personal question.

DANI

Well, it pays to be aggressive. And
the truth is, I'd like very much to
become familiar with your equipment.

GROG

(INCREDULOUS)
Uh ... are you asking me what
I think you're asking me?

DANI

Yes, Doctor. But, would you
mind cleaning up a bit first?

GROG

No problem. But what about Mrs.
Finkelmyer?

DANI

She's waited this long. I'm sure one more minute isn't gonna to make a difference.

GROG

Very funny.

HE WINKS AT HER AND DISAPPEARS INTO THE RESTROOM.

INT. OFFICE - DAY

JUST THEN, SCHWABS ENTERS FROM THE BACK, ALONG WITH BEN.

SCHWABS

Your date's here.

BEN

Where?

BACK TO RECEPTION AREA.

BEN RUNS IN FOLLOWED BY SCHWABS. HE SEES MRS. FINKELMYER LAYING ON THE COUCH, AND GASPS.

BEN

Ahhhh!

DANI POPS UP FROM BEHIND THE RECEPTION DESK.

DANI

Ben!

SHE GIVES HIM A HUG.

BEN

Dani!

SCHWABS

Dani? This is *Dani?* I thought she was *your date!*

BEN

My date?

IMPATIENT, MRS. FINKELMYER CLEARS HER THROAT.

BEN

(TO FINKELMYER)

Sheila?

MRS. FINKELMYER

Who's Sheila?

SHEILA, A TALL, THIN WOMAN WITH BRACES ENTERS.

SHEILA

I'm Sheila.

DANI

(TO SHEILA)

Braces coming off today?

SHEILA THINKS SHE IS BEING TEASED
AND RUNS OUT CRYING.

DANI

What's wrong with her?

SCHWABS

She's sensitive.

MRS. FINKELMYER

Very sensitive.

A CAT JUMPS INTO BEN'S ARMS.

CAT

Meow!

BEN

I really hate to ask this, but what

is going on?

DANI

Don't worry, Uncle Ben. I've got everything under control. Mrs. Finkelmyer has had her medication, Doctor Grog is preparing for dental surgery, and I fed your kitties the rest of that stinky cat food.

BEN

Dental surgery?

SCHWABS

Doctor Grog?

JUST THEN GROG STEPS OUT OF THE BATHROOM WEARING ONLY A TOWEL.

GROG

(SEXY)

I’m ready!

DISSOLVE TO:

SUPER-2 WEEKS LATER

INT. OFFICE - DAY

THE OFFICE HAS BEEN COMPLETELY TRANSFORMED WITH DANI'S ARTISTIC TOUCHES. THOUGH IT IS SLIGHTLY MORE ORGANIZED IT SEEMS A BIT "PERKY" FOR THIS BLUE COLLAR GANG. WHITE CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTS ARE STRUNG AROUND THE WINDOWS AND DOORWAYS. SEVERAL PLANTS HANG ABOUT THE ROOM. THE FILE CABINETS ARE PAINTED IN A RAINBOW OF BRIGHT COLORS.

THE MUTED HIP HOP VIDEOS FLASHING ON THE TV CONTRAST WITH THE CLASSICAL MUSIC BOOMING FROM THE STEREO. TEN CATS LOUNGE AROUND THE OFFICE, NOW PERMANENT FIXTURES AT TOOTH CONSTRUCTION.

SCHWABS IS AT THE COMPUTER DOING ESTIMATES.

JENSON ENTERS AND GOES TO THE FRIDGE WHICH HAS BEEN PAINTED PINK AND ORANGE.

JENSON

Where's the beer?

SCHWABS

Dani put it in the freezer, to make room for the cat food.

JENSON

Cat food in the fridge?

SCHWABS

She got Ben to cook them a meat loaf.

JENSON

Those cats are eating better then we are.

SCHWABS

Tell me about it.

(INTO PHONE)

Tooth Construction. No we're not a dentist. Yes, I know the other girl said she would fax you a list of dentists in the area but she's not here and I am a homicidal maniac. Same to you!

SHE HANGS UP.

DANI WALTZES IN WITH FRESHLY PICKED FLOWERS, FOLLOWED CLOSELY BY GROG AND HIS GARDENING SHEARS.

SCHWABS

Ah. Here's Snow White and Dopey now.

DANI

Morning, Schwabs. What's cookin', Buzz?

JENSON

I'm trying to figure out how to de-thaw my beer.

DANI

Just put it in the microwave for 5 seconds.

SHE PUTS IT IN THE MICROWAVE FOR **FIVE MINUTES.**

DANI HANDS GROG A WAND OF INCENSE AND HE LIGHTS IT.

JENSON

What's that?

GROG

Pandora's pussy willow.

SCHWABS AND JENSON STARE AT EACH OTHER.

SCHWABS

I'm not even going to touch that.

JENSON

Good idea.

SCHWABS

By the way, your husband called.

DADDY

Grant!? Grant called here?

SCHWABS

He told me to tell you that he's buying Atticus a new computer for his birthday so not to bother.

DANI

He's competing for my son's love by buying him things. I hate it when men try to win affection with money!

JENSON

It’s so sick. Did I tell you I make twice the salary of Grog?

GROG

You do not. I make more.

JENSON

(POURING ON HIS CHARM)

I know this is none of my business, but if you were my wife... you’d never have to work again.

DANI

That's what Grant said before we were married. But then, he's a divorce attorney. And I represented myself against him.

JENSON

What happened? Did ya falter with your cross examination?

DANI

No. I had forgotten about the pre-nuptial that said "no alimony, what so ever, until you die, no matter what!"

SCHWABS

That'd do it.

GROG

That'd stump even Lee F. Bailey

JENSON

F. Lee!

BEN

(ENTERING)

A flea? Where? We just fumigated with deadly pesticides!

SCHWABS

That explains the cerebral damage.

BEN

(SEARCHING THE FILE CABINETS)

Darn it. Where is the "Smith" paperwork?

DANI

It's right there in the "yellow" file. See, the yellow files are the jobs on "hold". Green files are jobs that have the go ahead, and red is for jobs that have come to a complete stop.

SCHWABS

What about the files that could swing either way? Are those the "bi" files?

SCHWABS AND JENSON LAUGH.

BEN

Well, I'm looking in the yellow files and there's nothing under "Smith."

DANI

(HELPING HIM)

It's right here under "Guns". as in "*Smith* and Wesson."

SCHWABS

(SARCASTIC)

You didn't know that?

DANI FINDS SOME OLD TOOLS AND TAKES THEM INTO THE BACK ROOM.

SCHWABS (CONT'D)

Listen Ben, I know Dani is your niece and all, but do you think she is going to be able to handle being *office manager?*

BEN

It has been a little nuts around here. She filed my "date list" under "Dried Fruit"--

JENSON

I mean, I've heard of nepotism, but this is ridiculous.

GROG

Want to know what I think?

I think she's doing a terrific.

job. And you know how I think.

SCHWABS

Obviously, not with your brain.

JENSON

What brain?

THE BEER EXPLODES IN THE MICROWAVE.
FOAM SHOOTS OUT ALL OVER THE PLACE.

SCHWABS

Beer's ready.

EVERYONE LOOKS AT BEN.

BEN

Well, alright. I'll talk to her.

HE GOES TO THE BACK DOOR.

BEN

Dani, can you come in here for

a minute?

DANI

Sure. I got all the tools organized

into three categories ... tools that

plug in, tools that run on batteries,

and tools I've never seen before.

BEN

So, Dani, I guess this isn't really

the job of your dreams, is it?

DANI

Are you kidding? Hammers, nails, bolts, asphalt, dumpsters, this is the *last* place I would have wanted to work.

BEN

That's what we were just saying --

DANI

(HEART FELT)

But, that's what makes it so great. When I left Grant last month, I lost everything, including my son, unless I could learn to support myself and hold a job for six months. Grant said I'd come crawling back after two days on any job ... since I dropped out of school... and I don't have any skills ... and I can't get up in the morning, and well, I've always been frankly irresponsible and completely dependent on other people. I guess maybe, deep down inside, I was afraid Grant was right. But, you people believed in me and gave me a shot. And for the first time in my life, I feel like I have self worth. And that I can survive. That is, if you like what I've done so far.

BEN, SCHWABS AND JENSON, GROG

(AD LIBBING)

Of course we do, are you kidding?

We couldn't live without you.

JENSON TAKES ADVANTAGE AND GIVES HER A TIGHT HUG.

JENSON

(TO SCHWABS)

She does give good hugs.

GROG

My turn. Mmmmmmm.

SCHWABS

Down Doctor, down.

THE PHONE RINGS. SCHWABS ANSWERS IT.

DANI

And as soon as I get my paycheck,

I'm going to take you all out

for Margaritas.

BEN

Count me in.

SCHWABS RE-ENTERS.

SCHWABS

That was Mr.Smith, again. His pipes

leaked and he needs the water damaged

areas remodeled by Sunday.

JENSON

Don't look at me, man. That's a

two man job.

GROG

I don't do plumbing.

BEN

I've got my, uh... date service appointment. To review some videos.

SCHWABS

Duff is all ready working and Pasqual has the flu.

BEN

(TO JENSON)

You sure you can't handle it alone?

JENSON

No way, man. It's impossible.

SCHWABS

But who are we going to get on such short notice?

JENSON

Look, I don't care if ya' hire a bum off of the street, I need another man.

DANI

I know just the guy.

CUT TO:

INT. RECEPTION AREA - LATER

MICKEY THE BUM SITS, SNORING ON THE COUCH. HE IS DRESSED UP IN A TOO-SMALL, PIN-STRIPED JACKET.

SCHWABS

Where'd you meet him?

DANI

Well, you said you'd hire a bum off the street.

THEY ALL CHUCKLE.

BEN

Seriously, how'd you meet him?

DANI

Well, he's... my neighbor. Sort of. I see him almost every day. And I happen to have known he was looking for work.

THEY STARE AT MICKEY. HE STIRS IN HIS SLEEP, THEN GOES BACK TO HIS SNORING.

BEN

And he's a skilled plumber?

DANI

Oh sure. He once made a living searching for hairline fractures in the city water mains. He'd spend hours and hours checking pipes for cracks.

SCHWABS

Looks like now he spends hours checking his *eyelids* for cracks.

DANI

That's because he hasn't had a good night's sleep in months. On account of him living so close to the freeway.

MICKEY SNORES.

JENSON

Well, he seems like a natural to me.

BEN

Yeah, I think he could work out.

DANI

You mean he's hired?

BEN

If you're recommending his work.

DANI

I'll guarantee it.

THEY SLAM THE DOOR BEHIND HIM AND
FINALLY MICKEY WAKES UP, ALONE IN THE ROOM.

MICKEY

Was that an earthquake?

(BEAT)

Wow.

HE STANDS UP AND YAWNS, STRETCHING AND HIS
HAND INTO THE SPINNING CEILING FAN.

MICKEY

Ouch! How'd that get there?

BLACKOUT.

END OF ACT I

ACT II

INT. SMITH'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - DAY

NEAR THE MARBLE FIREPLACE IN THE ELEGANT SUITE, JENSON KICKS BACK ON THE JOB, LOUNGING ON THE BED WATCHING THE HORSE RACES ON THE BIG SCREEN T.V.

JENSON

More coffee, Mick?

BUZZING ON CAFFEINE, MICKEY CARPETS THE BEDROOM AND BATHROOM WITH LIGHTING SPEED.

MICK

Uh, sure chief.

MICKEY GUZZLES FROM THE THERMOS.

JENSON

Great. Now why don't we get started

with the plumbing?

MICK

Uh, okay chief.

MICKEY RUNS OUT AND RETURNS IN A FLASH CARRYING A PLUMBING SNAKE AND LARGE TOOLBOX.

CUT TO:

INT. OFFICE - DAY

DANI AND SCHWABS ARE BOTH AT THEIR DESKS. **THREE PAINTERS** IN WHITE COVER-ALLS DANCE IN, AND SURROUND SCHWABS.

JOSE-A

Hola!

JOSE-B

Hola!

JOSE-C

Hola!

JOSE-A

Ay que Schwabs bonita.

SCHWABS

Yeah, yeah. Cut the song and dance! Dani's got your pay-checks.

THEY FORGET SCHWABS AND GO TO DANI'S DESK. THEY SMILE AT HER SHYLY.

DANI

Here you go...Jose?

ALL THREE GUYS

Si'.

DANI

No no no. This is for *Jose.*

ALL THREE GUYS

Si'.

DANI

Oh come on. Which one of you is Jose?

ALL THREE GUYS

Si', si' ,si'.

SCHWABS

Wait a minute. Let me help you. This is Jose.

JOSE-A

Hola.

DANI

I knew it.

SCHWABS

And here we have Jose.

JOSE-B

Hola.

DANI

You're both Jose?

SCHWABS

And last but not least...Jose.

JOSE-C

Hola.

DANI

Wait a minute, this is too confusing. How about if I call you "Jos-A", "Jos-B" "Jos-C".

SHE HANDS THEM THEIR PAYCHECKS.

JOS-A

Gracias.

JOS-B

Gracias.

JOS-C

Gracias.

DANI

Don't you think that will work better? Otherwise I might give the wrong pay check to the wrong Jose and if one of you had --

SCHWABS

Dani. Relax. They don't any speak

English.

DANI

Why didn't you say so?

(then, proudly but lamely)

Buenos dias. Mi nombre es Dani.

Como esta usted?

THE JOSE'S BEGIN SPEAKING VERY QUICKLY, IN SPANISH, EXPLAINING WHAT HAPPENED EARLIER. BECAUSE OF THEIR ANIMATED, GESTURES, EVERY-ONE SHOULD FOLLOW THE JOSES' STORY.

JOSE-A

(FINE NOW, BUT TODAY JOSE-)

Ahora estoy bein pero antes...Jose-

JOSE-B

(THAT'S ME)

Soy yo!

JOSE-A

(YEAH HIM, JOSE, HE CLIMBED UP THE

TALL LADDER..")

Su el, Jose. Subio una escalera alta.

JOSE-B MIMES CLIMBING UP THE LADDER AND ENDS UP ON THE DESK TOP.

JOSE-A(CONT'D)
(AND JOSE)

Y Jose-

JOSE-C
(THAT'S ME)

Soy yo!

JOSE-A

(PASSED HIM UP A HEAVY GALLON OF PAINT)

Le dio un vote de pintura muy

verde!

JOSE-C MIMES PASSING UP A HEAVY CAN TO JOSE-B.

JOSE-A

(AND JOSE-)

Y Jose-

JOSE-B

(THAT'S ME)

Soy yo!

JOSE-A

(HAPPILY BEGAN TO PAINT THE CEILING)

Muy contento comenso apintar el

techo.

JOSE-B WHISTLES AND MIMES PAINTING THE CEILING.

JOSE-A(CONT'D)

(JUST THEN A DOG CAME IN-)

De arrepente entro un perrote-

JOSE-C PRETENDS TO BE THE DOG, SNARLING

JOSE-C

(A GIANT CHIHAHUA!)

..un chihahua grande!

JOSE-B

(WITH SNARLY TEETH!)

..con los dentas pelados!

JOSE-C BARES HIS TEETH AND BARKS AT JOSE-B.

JOSE-A(CONT'D)

(AND BIT JOSE)

E mordio Jose-

JOSE-B

(THAT'S ME!)

Soy yo!

JOSE-A

(AND MADE HIM FALL)

En la pierna y lo tumbo.

JOSE-C GRABS HIS PANT LEG IN HIS TEETH AND GROWLS AND JOSE-B TEETERS ALMOST FALLING OVER..

JOSE-B

(TEETERING)

Aaaaaaaahhhaaaah...!

CUT TO:

INT. SMITH'S MASTER BEDROOM - DAY

MR. SMITH ENTERS, WEARING A DESIGNER TENNIS OUTFIT. JENSON JUMPS OFF THE BED AND TRIES TO APPEAR BUSY.

MR. SMITH

Ah, this looks fantastic in here.

The new carpet is beautiful. How

much longer do you think you'll be?

JENSON

(ALL BUSINESS)

I just have to snake the drains

in the bathroom there. Shouldn't

be more than an hour.

MR. SMITH

I have to run out for a tennis match. Here's the keys to lock up. Oh, and since you gentlemen rushed out to do this job, I'd like to give you a little tip.

HE OPENS A DRAWER AND PULLS OUT A WAD OF BILLS.

MR. SMITH(CONT'D)

I always keep a little stash handy right here the bottom drawer, right next to my wife's jewelry. Here you go, and thanks again.

HE LEAVES.

JENSON

Two hundred dollars. All right! That's one hundred for me... and another hundred for me. What time is it?

HE GRABS THE PAPER.

JENSON(CONT'D)

Oh no! "Little Itty Bitty" is running in the last race!

HE POPS HIS HEAD IN THE BATHROOM.

JENSON(CONT'D)

Mick! Something's come up. I have to split! Do you think you could finish this without me?

MICKEY

I'm all ready finished, chief.

JENSON

That's impossible.

HE CHECKS IT OUT.

JENSON(CONT'D)

Well, what do you know. Mick, I've really got to tell you something, we make a great team.

MICKEY

Ah, you're just saying that, chief.

JENSON

No, I mean it. I couldn't have done it with out you. Listen, I'll make you a deal. If you get this stuff cleaned up, I'll go and warm up the truck.

MICKEY

That sounds fair.

(HE YAWNS)

Is there any more coffee?

JENSON

Looks like you sucked it all down, Hoover lips.

JENSON PICKS UP THE TOOL BOX AND LEAVES. MICKEY STANDS AND YAWNS, STRETCHING HIS ARMS INTO THE SPINNING CEILING FAN.

MICKEY

Ouch!

(HE SEES THE FAN OVERHEAD)

How'd that get there?

HE STARTS CLEANING UP THE SCRAPS OF CARPET.

CUT TO:

INT. WORK TRUCK - DAY

JENSON STARTS UP THE MOTOR AND TURNS ON THE RADIO. HE HONKS THE HORN, IMPATIENT.

JENSON

(HONKING)

Man, what's keeping him? Oh, well.

The walk'll do him some good.

HE TAKES OFF.

CUT TO:

INT. OFFICE - DAY

THE JOSE'S FINALLY FINISH THEIR LONG STORY...

JOSE-A

(AND JOSE HAS IT NOW)

Limpiamos todo Jose.

JOSE-C

(ARE YOU IN THE MARKET FOR A PET DOG?)

Menosel perro usted quierre un

perro verde?

DANI HAS NO IDEA WHAT THEY SAID. SHE TRIES TO COVER, BY SMILING AND NODDING.

DANI

Si'!

ALL THE GUYS

Si?! (BEAT)

Okay!

THEY GUYS LAUGH HEARTILY ALL THE WAY OUT THE DOOR.

SCHWABS

What did they say?

DANI

Who knows? But I sure have them fooled.

CUT TO:

EXT. OFFICE

ONCE THE JOSES GET OUTSIDE THEY DROP
THEIR ACT AND SPEAK IN PERFECT ENGLISH.

JOSE B

She just bought herself one mean

Chihahua.

JOSE A

Man, this one is even more

gullible then the last.

JOSE C

She'll say "si" to anything!

JOSE A

(PRETENDING...)

"Mamn, is it true that your buttocks

is as big as a hippo's?"

JOSE B

(MOCKING DANI)

"Si!"

INT. TOOTH AND NAILS OFFICE - DAY

THE PHONE RINGS.

DANI

(INTO PHONE)

Tooth Construction?

(HER FACE PALES)

Uh huh. I see. We'll check in to it.

SCHWABS

What's that all about?

DANI

That was Mr. Smith. His wife's valuable jewelry is missing. And Buzz and Mickey are nowhere to be found. Buzz...wouldn’t... would he?

SCHWABS

Buzz Jenson is a lot of things, but he's *not* a thief. How well do you know this Mickey?

DANI

Well, he seemed like a nice enough guy, the way he always cleans up the neighborhood, collecting beer cans for his little shopping cart.

SCHWABS

You didn't.

DANI

I did.

CUT TO:

INT. DANI'S APARTMENT - LATER

DANI IS PACING. THE DOORBELL RINGS.
SHE ANSWERS IT. BEN ENTERS.

BEN

Dani, we have to talk.

DANI

Ben listen --

BEN

No, you listen. I really hoped that this job was going to weld together for you, and we've all tried to understand your "unusual methods" of office management. But there are some things you just don't do. Like hiring a total stranger off the street.

DANI

He wasn't a total stranger. We talked non stop in the coffee shop for three entire hours.

BEN

You've got to stop being so naive. Dani, we've spent years cementing our reputation at "Tooth Construction." One incident like this, and it's all in the dumpster.

DANI

I’m so sorry, Ben. But I can't believe for one second that Mickey would steal from anyone.

BEN

Well, believe this. Mr. Smith is suing us for fifteen thousand dollars.

DANI

Oh no.

BEN'S BEEPER GOES OFF.

BEN

That's my beeper. Can I use your phone?

DANI

Sure, it's in the kitchen.

HE GOES IN THE OTHER ROOM. A LOOK OF RESOLVE CROSSES DANI'S FACE.

DANI

(CALLING IN TO BEN)

I'll be right back!

BEN(O.S.)

Hey! Just a minute!

BUT DANI IS GONE. BEN RETURNS.

BEN

Dani?

BEN SIGHS.

CUT TO:

EXT. SMITHS HOUSE - NIGHT

DANI KNOCKS ON THE FRONT DOOR.

DANI

Mr. Smith? Mr. Smith? I need to talk to you.

NO ONE ANSWERS. SHE STARTS TO WALK AWAY WHEN SHE HEARS A FAMILIAR SNORING.

DANI

Mickey?

SHE CLIMBS UP THE TRELLIS.

INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

DANI OPENS THE WINDOW AND CLIMBS IN. SHE FOLLOWS THE SOUND OF HIS SNORING TO THE TUB ENCLOSURE AND OPENS THE DOOR. THE BATHROOM HAS BEEN COMPLETED WITH THE NEW WALL-TO-WALL BERBER CARPET. MICKEY IS ASLEEP IN A BATHTUB FILLED TO THE BRIM WITH WATER. HIS FINGER PLUGS UP A HOLE IN THE TILE WALL ABOVE THE FAUCET.

DANI

Mickey! What happened?

MICKEY

Dani? Wow. You look ... uh, real nice.

DANI

Mickey, what are you doing?!

MICKEY

Me? Oh. Waiting for Jenson.

DANI

But why are you sitting in the tub full of water with your finger in that hole?!

MICKEY

Oh, that. We sprung a leak. Didn't want the carpet to get ruined. Nice color, huh? Periwinkle blue.

DANI

Where's Jenson?!

MICKEY

Beats me. But maybe you could help me. I mean, if you're not busy or anything.

DANI

Sure, but--

MICKEY

Just, uh, if you could put your finger here.

DANI

Okay.

MICKEY

Hold her steady.

DANI

I got it.

MICKEY

Gotta’ get tools. Be back in an hour.

MICKEY RUSHES OUT.

DANI

Wait a minute! Mickey!

NOW DANI IS STUCK WITH HER FINGER IN THE HOLE. SHE SITS ON THE SIDE OF THE TUB.

DISSOLVE TO:

ONE HOUR LATER

DANI HAS FALLEN ASLEEP WITH HER FINGER IN THE HOLE. SHE WAKES UP TO HEAR MR. SMITH TALKING ON HIS CELLULAR IN THE NEXT ROOM.

SMITH(O.S.)

Sure. Any fool could do it.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

SMITH

(INTO THE PHONE)

It was easy. I just hired some buffoons to do some work, hid the diamonds, and blamed it on them. Not only can I collect the insurance money but I can sue Tooth Construction Company at the same time. And you should see the new carpet they put in.

(LISTENING)

Periwinkle blue. Anyway, it's all because of a made up story about a leak in my...

MR. SMITH WALKS IN THE BATHROOM AND SEES DANI SITTING THERE, LISTENING TO EVERY WORD.

SMITH(CONT'D)

...pipes.

THE TWO STARE AT EACH OTHER FOR A BEAT. **DANI GENTLY TAKES HER FINGER OUT OF THE HOLE AND WATER GUSHES OUT. IMMEDIATELY THE TUB OVERFLOWS AND A DELUGE OF WATER DRENCHES THE NEW CARPET.**

DANI

Oops.

CUT TO:

INT. RESTAURANT - DAY

IN A LARGE BOOTH OF THIS BUDGET STYLE MEXICAN RESTAURANT, THE ENTIRE “TOOTH CONSTRUCTION” GANG; BEN, DANI, SCHWABS, GROG, JENSON, MICKEY, AND THE THREE JOSE'S ARE CELEBRATING. DANI ALSO HAS HER NEW PET CHIHAHUA.

JENSON

More coffee, Mick?

MICKEY

Yeah, thanks.

HE GULPS IT DOWN.

BEN

I owe you an "atta-girl," Dani. Mrs. Finkelmyer called. Thanks to the way you pampered her in the office, she's recommending us to all of her friends.

JENSON

Great. More rich snobs.

SCHWABS

So, what are you going to name the pooch?

DANI

I'm going to let Atticus decide. He's flying out Saturday for his birthday.

GROG

Tell 'em the news Dani.

DANI

Well, thanks to this job, the court may reconsider who will retain custody of Atticus. For now, I'll be seeing him every other week-end.

JENSON

(HOLDING UP HIS COFFEE)

Here, here!

THEY TOAST AND DRINK.

BEN

(TO JENSON)

What I want to know, Jenson, is where were *you* when Mickey was stuck with his finger in the leak, at Smith’s place?

JOSE

Si.

JOSE

Si.

JOSE

Si.

GROG

See what?

DANI

(ROLLING HER EYES)

That's Spanish for "ocean!"

Just kidding. A joke.

BEN

Jenson, you were saying?

JENSON

(LYING THROUGH HIS TEETH)

Well, um ...after a hard day's work I was packing up the truck and I heard someone scream “fire”...so I drove down the street to where the smoke was. But it turned out to be just a barbecue, and some kids shooting off bottle-rockets, yelling, "fire". When I got back to my truck, someone had siphoned the gas, so I rolled down the hill to the nearest station. When I got out of the truck, I, um ... hit my head on an overhanging branch and was knocked unconscious.

EVERYONE GLARES AT HIM, EXCEPT MICKEY.

MICKEY

(SINCERE)

Yeah, that happens to me all the time.

BEN

I'd like to make a toast; “To new-

comers Dani and Mickey, and all

of my dedicated employees at

Tooth Construction.”

SCHWABS

Now all we need is some work.

SUDDENLY THE ROOM BEGINS TO TREMBLE. EVERYONE IN THE RESTAURANT SCREAMS AND HIDES UNDER THEIR TABLES FROM THE TREMOR. EVERYONE, THAT IS EXCEPT FOR OUR GANG. WHO SIT CALMLY. SMILES SPREAD ACROSS THEIR FACES.

THE TREMOR STOPS. THERE IS A SILENCE.

SCHWABS

Five, four, three, two ...

EVERYONE’S' BEEPER GOES OFF. BEN AND SCHWABS DIAL THEIR CELLULAR PHONES.

SCHWABS SMILES, PULLS OUT HER CALCULATOR AND BEGINS TO ADD.

BLACKOUT.

END OF ACT II

DANI

Tooth Home Construction and Remodeling Co. No we're not a dentist. But don't worry I made the same mistake on my first day of work.

SCHWABS

Here she goes.

DANI(CONT'D)

Sure, on account of the Tooth part. But that's the owners name, Ben Tooth. However I can fax you a complete list of dentists if you give me your fax number. Gotcha. And please call us if you need any work on your home. Cool.

EXT. CONSTRUCTION SITE - DAY

Buzz and Mickey loaf off at the site. Mickey scans around with his binoculars.

JENSON
Pass me the paper Mickey. I wanna see whose running at the track.

MICKEY
Wow!

JENSON
I'll get it myself.

MICKEY
Wow.

JENSON
Flying Trapeze is running in the seventh.

MICKEY
Wow.

JENSON
You got any money. I'll lay down some bets and be right back.

MICKEY
Wow.

JENSON
What are you looking at?

MICKEY
Wow.

JENSON
Gimmie those.

He grabs the binoculars and looks.

JENSON

Wow. Mickey look at that.

Tido,"The Rock" Schwabs enters and sees them.

SCHWABS

All right Jenson quit loafing.

JENSON
We're working.

SCHWABS

Looks like Mickey's workin' his eye

visors.

Mickey snores contented.

SCHWABS
What are you lookin' at?

JENSON
I'm watchin' this chick undress.

SCHWABS
That's disgusting.

JENSON
Not in my book.

SCHWABS
How'd you feel if someone was peepin' on your wife.

JENSON
Who'd bother.

SCHWABS
Well I brought your brackets. Hurry and shore up those pipes and you Better wake up the other dwarf and get to it.

JENSON
Why start a new policy now?

SCHWABS
Simple, the old man's niece is comin' in to be our new office manager. And uncle Ben wants you

all to make a good impression.

JENSON
Yeah yeah. We'll be there. Don't worry you can depend on us. We'll come through.

SCHWABS
Just show up and be nice. Three o' clock sharp.

She exits.

JENSON
We don't need to meet any wrinkly old relative who'll end up bossin' us around, no siree...we're going to the track Mickey...Mickey...(He pokes him) Mickey!

MICKEY
What? Was that an earthquake? Wow.

CUT TO:

INT. TOOTH CONSTRUCTION

SCHWABS man's the phone. Ben rushes in.

BEN
SCHWABS can you get Mary started when she gets here?

SCHWABS
On the northern or southern pile.

BEN
Southern will be fine. I'm going on a date and I need to pick up my vacuum cleaner.

SCHWABS
You don't need to explain. I won't even ask.

BEN
Well I met this girl in hot pants at the shopping mall and she's selling me this amazing shop vacuum. It sucks up ball bearing or Jello... or anything.

SCHWABS
You sure it didn't it suck up your brain?

BEN
No. But this girl is beautiful. Give me a check.

SCHWABS
It did. (hands him check) How much for your date...I mean vacuum cleaner.

BEN
It's a real steal at four hundred ninety five.

SCHWABS
(fills out check)
That's robbery all right.

BEN
See ya.

Ben exits. Mary comes in.

MARY
Is this Tooth Construction?

SCHWABS
Last time I checked. Whose askin'?

MARY
I'm Mary.

SCHWABS
I'm SCHWABS Schwabs. Start on the southern end. Answer the phone and the door. Ben forgot his check. I'll be right back.

Mary sits at the desk. The phone rings.

MARY
Tooth construction. Yeah we do crown molding I'm sure. You need bridge work on the foundation I'm sure that can be arranged. Do you need anything for the pain? Aspirin? Ha Ha. I'll send someone over.

Jose and Pepe wander in.

MARY
Hey you guys better go over to this address and do this bridge work

I'm sure he'll need drilling.

No English. But she mimes a drill and they get the big drills and head out.

MARY
Those are big drills so I sure Mr. Johnson will need something for the pain. Take these.

She hands them some aspirin and they each take two and exit. A little confused she call Mr. Johnson back.

MARY
Don't worry Mr. Johnson they're on their way. I sure hope those guys know what their doing.

Buzz and Mickey saunter in. Mary has started attacking the files and moves like a whirlwind around the reception area picking up and filing.

JENSON
What do we have here?

MARY
I'm Mary Tooth. The new office manager.

MICKEY
Wow.

JENSON
I'm Buzz Jensen and this is Mickey. You know I hate to ask but what do you know about Tooth Construction.

MARY
Let me see...I know you should eat right and brush after every meal.

MARY
I know that if you get into trouble you need to get help right away.

JENSON
That's good. What else?

MARY
I know that if it's broke we can fix it.

MICKEY

Wow.

JENSON
Okay I guess you are qualified.
What are you doing after work?

SCHWABS comes in with crown molding.

SCHWABS
I see you've met sleepy and lazy.

JENSON
Hey lazy wasn't one of the dwarves.

SCHWABS
Who said you were a dwarf.

JENSON
I'll take that as a compliment.

The boys go hide in the lounge to watch T.V.

SCHWABS
I got the crown molding for the Johnson job.

Mary
Those are awfully big aren't they.

SCHWABS
These are the size Johnson ordered.

MARY
He must have a really big mouth.

SCHWABS
Only if you get on his bad side.
Have you seen Pepe and Jose?

MARY
I already sent over to Mr. Johnson's
but the strangest thing happened.

SCHWABS
What? They actually went?

MARY
Know they took giant drills and
instead of taking the aspirin to
Mr. Johnson. Pepe and Jose took
the aspirins themselves.

SCHWABS
What did Johnson need the aspirin for?

MARY
The pain of course.

SCHWABS
I guess it does hurt to spend all that money. Look I gotta run before Raymond's closes to get some supplies. Answer the phone. Oh and don't worry about Abbot and Costello in back their harmless.